

WEST COAST REGION NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES



CHANNEL ISLANDS CORDELL BANK GULF OF THE FARALLONES MONTEREY BAY OLYMPIC COAST
QUARTERLY SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTIONS

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

November 21, 2014

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Mentors UCSB Bren Students and Hosts Mock Student Council Session

In November 2014, members of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council paired up with graduate students enrolled in a Coastal and Ocean Policy and Management course at UCSB's Bren School of Environmental Science and Management. Each participating council member was interviewed by a graduate student, who then served as their proxy in a "mock" student council session hosted on November 21st in Ventura at the council's regularly scheduled public meeting. The students used insight they had gained from talking with council members to play the roles of various stakeholders. The mock scenario that the students engaged in was focused on the possibility of cruise ship visits and activities occurring within the sanctuary. A similar exercise was conducted last year, and once again it was a nice success. Students had the chance to engage in a real world public policy forum, and to connect with actual coastal community stakeholders. Their comments at the meeting reflected that they had done their "homework" on community issues and views, and their participation was focused and engaging. Students will also be drafting a meeting summary to report back to their assigned council members.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

October 16, 2014

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Annual Retreat at Cypress Grove Preserve

The Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council had its annual retreat October 16th at the Audubon Canyon Ranch Cypress Grove Preserve in Marshall. Dan Howard, Sanctuary Superintendent, opened the retreat by thanking the council for its work and advice over the past year. Danielle Lipski, CBNMS Research Coordinator, then provided an overview of the 2014 research field season at CBNMS. She summarized the Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies program, remotely-operated vehicle (ROV) surveys at Cordell Bank and the North Coast, hypoxia monitoring buoys, and Bay Area Underwater Explorers dives. Michael Carver, CBNMS Deputy Superintendent, briefed the advisory council about his activities to assist regional and national Maritime Heritage Program staff in exploring, via ROV video, several shipwrecks in Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. The advisory council was engaged throughout the presentations and was captivated by the photos shown. Being informed about research activities and findings helps ensure the advisory council has current information related to the sanctuary, so council members may provide valuable advice to sanctuary management about future research. The advisory council then brainstormed about topics for presentations at 2015 CBNMS advisory

council meetings. They concluded their retreat by chatting informally outside on the shore of Tomales Bay on a glorious, sunny fall afternoon.

November 13, 2014

Submarine Canyons and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Boundary Expansion

The Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council met November 13th and heard from Sanctuary Superintendent Dan Howard on the status of the proposed sanctuary boundary expansion, including the planned release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed action in December. Bodega Canyon is a prominent submarine feature that would be added to the sanctuary as part of the expansion, and marine geologist Charlie Paull from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute gave a fascinating presentation about marine canyon processes and which of these might be expected to occur in the unexplored Bodega Canyon. This educational presentation was enthusiastically received by the advisory council and generated questions and thoughts about possible future CBNMS research and resource management needs for the area.

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

November 19, 2014

Internal Organization and Business

The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council spent much of their November meeting focused on internal council organization and business. Significant council actions include:

- Finalizing and approving the Council Work Plan for FY 2015
- Forming a 'Name Change Subcommittee' to report back to the council on potential new names for the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
- Electing new council officers: Dr. John Largier, from Bodega Marine Lab, was elected Chair; Kellyx Nelson, from the San Mateo Resource Conservation District, was elected Vice-Chair; and Barbara Emley, a commercial fisherman from San Francisco, was re-elected Secretary.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

October 24, 2014

Letter of Support for Application to Retrieve Crab Pots

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council approved a letter of support from Council Chair Margaret (P.J.) Webb to the NOAA Marine Debris program supporting Dive Inc.'s application to retrieve lost crab pots in southern Monterey Bay. Recently a host of pots have had buoys cut, leaving a forest of nylon line subsurface, creating hazards for boaters, fishermen and most recently whales. Dive Inc. has been working with advisory council member Brian Nelson on piloting various techniques for identification of and retrieval of these lost pots.

Interest in Issue of Acoustics in Upcoming Management Plan

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council proposed sending a memo to ONMS Director Dan Basta stating the advisory council's interest in including the issue of acoustics in the upcoming management plan review.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

November 7, 2014

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Holds Annual Joint Meeting with Intergovernmental Policy Council

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council hosted a joint meeting with the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) on November 7th in La Push, WA. The session included an interactive discussion between both councils focusing on topics of interest and priorities. IPC presented on a Habitat Framework initiative, which would serve as a comprehensive catalog to be used for supporting efforts to improve our understanding and protection of important marine resources. The Habitat Framework is based on a need for a common understanding of all information sources regarding habitat and its role in supporting marine ecosystems. Advisory council members proposed supporting IPC's initiative and will present a draft letter of support to the council at the January 23, 2015 meeting in Port Angeles for action.